

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
TRIBAL STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 3**

**Columbia River Compact
February 14, 2017**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>
Treaty Commercial Winter Gillnet Fishery

STOCK STATUS

- Stock status information is available in Winter Fact Sheet #1 (January 31, 2017) and in the January 20, 2016 Winter/Spring/Summer Joint Staff Report and the 2017 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 30, 2017).

TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

- The preliminary Zone 6 treaty commercial sturgeon harvests and commercial guidelines are shown in the table below.

Pool	Slot Limit (inches, fork length)	January Setline	Winter Gillnet	Total	Commercial Harvest Guideline	Remaining
Bonneville	38-54	0	0	0	325	325
The Dalles	43-54	0	66	66	325	259
John Day	43-54	0	67	67	295	228
Total		0	133	133	945	812

- There was a setline fishery open in all three pools in January but no harvest has been reported. The winter gillnet fishery has harvested a total of 133 fish through Monday. No other species have been reported harvested to date. The fishery in the John Day Pool is currently scheduled to close tomorrow at 6:00 PM (Wednesday February 15), and the fishery in The Dalles Pool is scheduled to close later at 6:00 PM Saturday February 18.
- The sturgeon catch per day is below the average rate for this time of year. Catch rates generally increase as the season progresses. Assuming catch rates increase next week to the average during this time period, tribal staff project the fisheries in the John Day and The Dalles pools will still be within their commercial harvest guidelines by February 22. Marginal weather predicted for later this week may continue to depress catch rates.
- The tribes may propose additional openings or extensions of the sturgeon treaty commercial fisheries once the updated catch numbers have been considered early next week.
- All four tribes agreed to the extension of the commercial fisheries as presented on page 2.

2017 Treaty Indian Zone 6 Commercial Gillnet Fishery

Dates/Time:	Extend the ongoing fishery through 6:00 PM Wednesday February 22.
Area:	John Day Pool and The Dalles Pool
Gear:	Gillnets with no mesh restriction.
Allowable Sales:	Sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length, Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, and yellow perch may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sales of fish are allowed after the fishing period as long as they were landed during the open period.
Sanctuaries:	River mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnets in effect.
Miscellaneous:	Quick reporting required for all Washington Fish Buyers pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.14(d), and landings must be quick reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- The current regulations for the Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries do not require modification at this time.
- There is no specific guideline for treaty subsistence harvest of sturgeon, but these fish are accounted for.
- Tribal fishery monitors will monitor fisheries and assist in collection of biological data.
- State and tribal staff will work cooperatively to report harvest on a regular basis.
- Sturgeon fisheries will be closed earlier if harvest guidelines for that pool are met before the scheduled end dates.
- The tribes also expect to set an opening for the Bonneville Pool fishery after the fisheries in the upper pools are concluded.
- The tribes request another Compact to be scheduled in the late afternoon on February 21st after the tribes have updated their plans for this fishery.